

TRANSCRIPTION - ORIGINAL FOLLOWS

1. Events of last week proved not only the vulnerability of certain Afghan institutions but highlighted to an embarrassing degree the utter unreliability, impracticality and unworthiness of our so-called F&E radio network. It is pre-transistor, old fashioned, jury rigged, worn out, washed up and must be junked and replaced - NOW.
2. We have learned a lesson the hard way. Here we were, in a remote region of planet earth, in the middle of a coup and unable to communicate one with another. The first thing the coupsters did was to disconnect the telephone system (for six days). Simultaneously they shut down the telegraphic system. Then they closed the airport. Had it not been for our telecommunications network we would have been totally ineffective.
3. What we experienced during those seven days is really nothing new. At least since last August, radio voice communications at Kabul has been a sometimes thing. Since the first threat against

Department of State

86 D 416
Bx 1083 (825)

CONFIDENTIAL

5545
JULY 26, 1973

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/AMB

DATE

CLASSIFICATION

AMC
DPM
ARMH
DAO
CRC
CRU

ACTION: SecState WASHDC
INFO: Ambassador, BEIRUT

KABUL: 5545

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ACOM, ASBC, AEMR, AFSP, AF
SUBJECT: KABUL'S RF RADIO NET

REVIEWED BY: [Signature]
MESSAGE: [Signature]
() PRIORITY () PRIORITY
() DEITY () DEITY
POL: [Signature]
() CLASSIFY TO: () S or () C, OADR
() DOWNGRADE TO: () S or () C, OADR

DEPT FOR NEA/EX FOR HUNT, SY FOR GENILE, OPR/WHC FLR McDONNELL.
CC FOR MAHER
BEIRUT FOR REQ

1. Events of last week proved not only the vulnerability of certain Afghan institutions but highlighted to an embarrassing degree the utter unreliability, impracticality and unworthiness of our so-called E2E radio network. It is pre-transistor, old fashioned, jury rigged, worn out, washed up and must be junked and replaced - NOW.
2. We have learned a lesson the hard way. Here we were, in a remote region of planet earth, in the middle of a coup and unable to communicate one with another. The first thing the computers did was to disconnect the telephone system (for six days). Simultaneously they shut down the telegraphic system. Then they closed the airport. Had it not been for our telecommunications network we could have been totally ineffective.

3. What we experienced during those seven days is really nothing new. At least since last August radio voice communications at Kabul has been a pretty bad thing. Since the first threat against

DRAFTED BY:

ADMIN: POKELLY, [Signature]

CLEAR:

ATTACH: COL S. [Signature] (Cleared by [Signature])

A/SCN: DECHU

CONFIDENTIAL

Classification

TRANSCRIPTION - ORIGINAL FOLLOWS

the Ambassador in December 1972 we have tried to revive our emphyneumatic F&E radio net. In the great tradition of the service we have tried, as usual parsimoniously, to/ do and muddle through. We even had a radio expert over from Delhi once! All this patchwork effort on our so-called F&E net has only perpetuated an unreliable useless system and in the process allowed a mesmerizing tendency to exist giving us a false sense of security which in the bright light of last week's reality could have been serious or even fatal.

4. On the other hand, the USAID net (separate from ours) is alive and well, thank God. Had it not been for its excellence and relative piatitude we would have been, Sirs, up the creek without a paddle in a leaky canoe had events moved differently than they had.

5. We are in your hands. We will accept the sagacious judgement of the Department as what kind of new and modern equipment is best and called for. Please accept our judgement, therefore, that this is what we need.

A. Base Stations, - five (5): Chancery, USAID, USIS,

Peace Corps, Residence.

B. Repeater unit/sites: one or more.

C. Mobile units - thirteen (13): Vehicles of Ambassador, DGM, DATT, ATRA, Medical Doctor, all pooled vehicles and SY officer's personal car.

D. Portable PR-36 units: Seventy one (71): AMB, DCM, USAID (4), POL (5), CCON, DAT (4), PAO (2), ADMIN, GSO, SY, DUTY OFFICER, DUTY SECRETARY, DUTY CRU, DUTY TOU, HOSPITAL (4), PC (2), CONSUL, DEA/ATT, MARINE HOUSE (2), NE NCOIC, D&E WARDENS (25), SPARES (10).

E. One real livewire American radio technician who would know how to maintain the above equipment. (Perhaps on military complement).

6. We have no means to fund the above request. In view of our experience last week and the still unsettled situation, can this be immediately funded from "Emergencies in the Diplomatic and consular Service" a proportion of this is a real emergency.

7. [3 words illeg]

1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 26

4. On the other hand, the GRAIN ^{OUT} (Separate from GRAIN) is also and well, thank God. ^{AND} It not least for its excellence and ^{and} its significance we would have been, first, on the crest with a pain: is a leaky canoe and events moved differently than they had.

3. We are in your hands. We will accept the unanimous judgment of the Department as to the kind of new and under equipment to test and called for. Please accept our judgment, therefore, that this is what we need.

- A. Base Stations - Fifteen (15). Chumceery, HADIC, UNIS, Penta Corp., Madison.
- B. Repeater Unit - At least one or more.
- C. Mobile Units - Thirteen (13). Vehicles of 1st Sergeant, EMM, DATT, AUSA, Medical Doctor, all coded vehicles and SV Officer's Personal Car.
- D. Portable Radio - Twenty One (21). JMC, JMC, JMC (4), POLICE (2), FBI (1), FBO (2), ARMY CMO, FBI OFFICIAL, PARK, CHAIRMAN, BUREAU CMO, CITY MGR, MAYOR, PD ASST, DISTRICT ATTORNEY, JUDGE JONES (2), ST. JOHN, AND DEPUTY.